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ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Additional proposals for the draft declaration and draft programme of action

Note by the Secretariat

At its third session, the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, in its decision 3/2, approved the draft declaration and draft programme of action and the informal papers containing amendments thereto, as orally amended during the discussion (see A/CONF.166/L.1), and decided to transmit them, together with additional proposals which were before the Plenary of the Preparatory Committee during the session, to the Summit for further consideration and adoption.

The texts of the additional proposals follow.

* A/CONF.166/1.

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I. DRAFT DECLARATION: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW COMMITMENT

1. During the consideration of the draft declaration by Working Group I and the Plenary, it was proposed to add a commitment on education to the nine commitments already included in the draft declaration. The Preparatory Committee decided to give a favourable consideration to this proposal and to transmit it for final decision to the Main Committee of the Summit in Copenhagen. Texts were presented by the Group of 77 and China and by the European Union. These two proposals are reproduced below.

Proposal for a new commitment, presented by the Group of 77 and China

We commit ourselves to attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education and to basic health services, without distinction by race, national origin, gender or age, and to preserving and promoting our rich and varied cultural heritage, as indispensable bases for people-centred sustainable development.

To this end, at the national level, we will:

(a) Formulate and strengthen timebound national strategies for the eradication of illiteracy and universalization of basic education, in particular, for the introduction, if possible, of the national languages in the educational system and by the official support to the various means of non-formal education;

(b) Emphasize lifelong learning by seeking to improve the quality of education to ensure that people of all ages are provided with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and participate fully in the social, economic and political process of development;

(c) Take appropriate and affirmative steps to enable all children and adolescents, particularly girls, to attend and complete school;

(d) Ensure equal educational opportunities at all levels for children, youth and adults with disabilities, in integrated settings;

(e) Develop specific educational policies and design appropriate mechanisms at all levels of society in order to accelerate the conversion of general and specific information available world wide into knowledge, and knowledge into creativity and increased productive capacity;

(f) Develop broad-based education programmes for the promotion and respect for human rights, including training in peaceful conflict resolution, both in recognition of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2005) and as a fundamental component of social and economic development;

(g) Develop or update country action plans or programmes to ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic health services, health and nutrition education and programmes to prevent the spread of diseases;

(h) Strive to ensure that all children have access to adequate nutrition and health care;

(i) Seek to attain the maternal and child health objectives of the 1990 World Summit for Children and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and work to reduce child mortality by one third and maternal mortality by one half from 1990 levels by the year 2000;

(j) Strengthen intergovernmental organizations which utilize various forms of education to promote culture; disseminate information through education and communication media; help spread the use of technologies; and promote technical and professional training and scientific research.

At the international level, we will:

(k) Ensure that international organizations, in particular the international financial institutions, support these objectives, integrating them into their policy programmes and operations. This should be complemented by renewed bilateral and regional cooperation;

(l) Recognize the importance of the cultural dimension of development to ensure respect for cultural diversity and that of our cultural heritage is respected, preserved and promoted;

(m) Request the United Nations system institutions dedicated to educational and cultural activities to consider giving greater emphasis to the overarching goals of eradicating poverty, promoting productive employment and fostering social integration.

Proposal for "Commitment 6 on education", presented by the European Union

We commit ourselves to promoting education as a basic right of every child, youth and adult, and as an essential means to ensure full development of human resources and social development.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Ensure universal access to basic education, promote equality, and give all children, youth and adults the opportunity to achieve and maintain an acceptable level of learning;

(b) Promote universal access to higher quality of education, with particular priority being given to primary and technical education as well as to job training;

(c) Remove every obstacle that hampers the active participation of girls and women in education;

(d) Ensure that education is designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(e) Promote and protect the enjoyment of the rights of children through their access to education in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(f) Address educational disparities so that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups do not suffer any discrimination in access to learning opportunities;

(g) Focus on learning acquisition and outcome, broaden the means and scope of basic education, enhance the environment for learning and strengthen partnerships among all sectors and forms of education as set out in the World Declaration on Education for All, adopted at the Conference of Jomtien (Thailand) in 1990;

(h) Promote lifelong learning to ensure that education provides people of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required to develop their full capacities.

At the international level, we shall:

(i) Share, among all nations, valuable knowledge and experiences for designing effective educational policies and programmes;

(j) Acknowledge the urgent responsibility of the world community, including UNESCO and other intergovernmental agencies and institutions, to alleviate the constraints that prevent some countries from achieving the goal of education for all, including through financial and technical assistance.

II. DRAFT DECLARATION: PROPOSALS FOR ALTERNATIVES

Alternative to Commitment 8, subparagraph (i)

(i) Develop policies that prioritize and enhance efficiency of all available resources allocated to the social sector and where possible seek to maximize availability of adequate, predictable, new and additional resources using all available funding sources and mechanisms as laid down in chapter 33 of Agenda 21 in support of this action plan;

Alternative to Commitment 8, subparagraph (o)

(o) Ensure urgent implementation of existing debt relief agreements and negotiate further initiatives, in addition to existing ones to alleviate debts of the poorest and severely indebted low-income countries at an early date, especially through more favourable terms of debt forgiveness. Where appropriate, these countries should be given a reduction of their bilateral official debt sufficient to help enable them to exit from the rescheduling

process and resume sustainable growth in the context of people-centred development. Invite the IFIs to examine innovative approaches to assist low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt with a view towards alleviating their debt burden. Develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development projects in conformity with Summit priorities;

III. ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A. Proposal to transfer two subparagraphs related to poverty eradication from chapter II to chapter V

2. In the draft programme of action, subparagraphs 30 (h) and 30 (i) are bracketed. During their consideration by Working Group II, it was proposed to include them within chapter V, and therefore to refer them to Working Group I. This did not take place and a decision was made by the Plenary to have these two subparagraphs considered by the Main Committee in Copenhagen.

B. Alternative texts presented but not discussed during the work of the Preparatory Committee

Chapter I. An enabling environment for social development

Alternative to the chapeau to paragraph 15:

Social development requires that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, be promoted and protected, including through the following actions:

Alternative to paragraph 15 (b):

Reaffirming and promoting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, including the right to development, and striving to ensure that they are respected, protected and observed through appropriate legislation, dissemination of information [above all is from Commitment 1 (m)], education and training and the provision of effective mechanisms and remedies for enforcement, inter alia, through the establishment of strengthening of national institutions responsible for monitoring and enforcement;

Alternative to paragraphs 15 (c) and (d):

Text drawn from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action:

Reaffirming and promoting the right to development, as established in the Declaration of the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.

Alternative to paragraphs 17 (d), (e) and (f):

Text drawn from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action:

States cooperating with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level. The right to development should be fulfilled so as to meet equitably the social developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Chapter II. Eradication of poverty

Alternative to paragraph 26 (f):

Promoting effective enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and access to existing social protection and public services by, in particular, through encouraging the ratification and ensuring the full implementation of all relevant human rights instruments;

Alternative to paragraph 37 (e):

Promoting cooperation among government agencies, health-care workers, non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society to develop a comprehensive national strategy for improving reproductive health care and services for people at all ages, thereby ensuring that people living in poverty and vulnerable groups have full access to such care and services including reproductive health care and services which incorporate services on safe motherhood including prenatal and post-natal care, as well as promotion of and education on the benefits of breast-feeding, and child-care services and education.

Chapter III. The expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment

Alternative to paragraph 54 (c):

Encouraging those countries that are not States Parties to ILO Conventions in these areas, as well as those relating to employment rights of minors, women, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous people to consider ratifying those conventions and in the meantime to take account of the principles embodied in them.

Chapter IV. Social integration

Alternative to paragraph 74 (a):

Urging all Governments to take immediate measures and to develop strong policies to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance or related intolerance, where necessary by enactment of appropriate legislation, including penal measures, and by the establishment of national institutions to combat such phenomena.

Chapter V. Implementation and follow-up

Alternative to paragraphs 90 (b) and (c):

(b) Invite creditor countries to implement on an urgent basis recently agreed Paris Club approaches for debt stock reduction and consider innovative measures such as debt swaps for the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

(c) Invite the international financial institutions to examine innovative approaches to assist low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt with a view towards alleviating their debt burden;

(d) Develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development projects in conformity with Summit priorities;